

What is claimed is;

1. An electronic still camera, comprising:

a charge storage type image-capturing element that
5 stores electrical charges in correspondence to subject
brightness distribution;

a continuous shooting setting unit that sets either a
first continuous shooting mode or a second continuous
shooting mode in which photographs are taken over shorter
10 intervals than in said first continuous shooting mode; and

a recording signal output circuit that repeatedly
stores electrical charges at said image-capturing element
and reads out image data from said image-capturing element
when either continuous shooting mode has been set by said
15 continuous shooting setting unit and compresses and outputs
image data corresponding to a frame which has been read out
immediately before while electrical charges for the next
frame are being stored during, at least, a period of time
in which said second continuous shooting mode has been set.

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2. An electronic still camera according to claim 1,
wherein:

said image-capturing element is provided with a
plurality of pixels; and

25 said recording signal output circuit reads out image

data only from some of the pixels at said image-capturing element while said second continuous shooting mode has been set.

5 3. An electronic still camera according to claim 1,
wherein:

when said second continuous shooting mode has been set,
an image-capturing sensitivity higher than an image-
capturing sensitivity for said first continuous shooting
10 mode has been set.

4. An electronic still camera according to claim 2,
wherein:

when said second continuous shooting mode has been set,
15 an image-capturing sensitivity higher than an image-
capturing sensitivity for said first continuous shooting
mode has been set.

5. An electronic still camera according to claim 1,
20 further comprising:

an exposure value setting unit that sets shutter speed
and aperture corresponding to subject brightness in
conformance to a predetermined program chart, wherein:

25 said exposure value setting unit is provided with a
first continuous shooting mode program chart and a second

continuous shooting mode program chart, with said second continuous shooting mode program chart shifted toward a higher shutter speed side relative to said first continuous shooting mode program chart.

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6. An electronic still camera according to claim 2, further comprising:

an exposure value setting unit that sets shutter speed and aperture corresponding to subject brightness in
10 conformance to a predetermined program chart, wherein:

said exposure value setting unit is provided with a first continuous shooting mode program chart and a second continuous shooting mode program chart, with said second continuous shooting mode program chart shifted toward a higher shutter speed side relative to said first continuous
15 shooting mode program chart.

7. An electronic still camera according to claim 3, further comprising:

20 an exposure value setting unit that sets shutter speed and aperture corresponding to subject brightness in conformance to a predetermined program chart, wherein:

said exposure value setting unit is provided with a first continuous shooting mode program chart and a second
25 continuous shooting mode program chart, with said second

continuous shooting mode program chart shifted toward a higher shutter speed side relative to said first continuous shooting mode program chart.

5 8. An electronic still camera according to claim 1, further comprising:

 a mechanical shutter provided to block photographic, light fluxes traveling to said image-capturing element, wherein:

.10 when said second continuous shooting mode has been set, electrical charges are stored at said image-capturing element and image data are read out from said image-capturing element while said mechanical shutter is left open.

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9. An electronic still camera according to claim 2, further comprising:

 a mechanical shutter provided to block photographic, light fluxes traveling to said image-capturing element, 20 wherein:

 when said second continuous shooting mode has been set, electrical charges are stored at said image-capturing element and image data are read out from said image-capturing element while said mechanical shutter is left 25 open.

10. An electronic still camera according to claim 3,
further comprising:

5 a mechanical shutter provided to block photographic,
light fluxes traveling to said image-capturing element,
wherein:

when said second continuous shooting mode has been set,
electrical charges are stored at said image-capturing
element and image data are read out from said image-
10 capturing element while said mechanical shutter is left
open.

11. An electronic still camera according to claim 5,
further comprising:

15 a mechanical shutter provided to block photographic,
light fluxes traveling to said image-capturing element,
wherein:

when said second continuous shooting mode has been set,
electrical charges are stored at said image-capturing
20 element and image data are read out from said image-
capturing element while said mechanical shutter is left
open.

12. An electronic still camera according to claim 1,
25 wherein:

when said second continuous shooting mode has been set, a shutter speed corresponding to a continuous shooting speed is set at a lower speed limit.

5 13. An electronic still camera according to claim 2, wherein:

when said second continuous shooting mode has been set, a shutter speed corresponding to a continuous shooting speed is set at a lower speed limit.

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14. An electronic still camera according to claim 3, wherein:

when said second continuous shooting mode has been set, a shutter speed corresponding to a continuous shooting speed is set at a lower speed limit.

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15. An electronic still camera according to claim 5, wherein:

when said second continuous shooting mode has been set, a shutter speed corresponding to a continuous shooting speed is set at a lower speed limit.

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16. An electronic still camera according to claim 8, wherein:

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when said second continuous shooting mode has been set,

a shutter speed corresponding to a continuous shooting speed is set at a lower speed limit.

17. An electronic still camera, comprising:

5 a charge storage type image-capturing element that stores electrical charges in correspondence to subject brightness distribution;

10 a continuous shooting setting unit that sets either a first continuous shooting mode or a second continuous shooting mode in which photographs are taken over shorter intervals than in said first continuous shooting mode;

15 a recording signal output circuit that repeatedly stores electrical charges at said image-capturing element and reads out image data from said image-capturing element when either continuous shooting mode has been set by said continuous shooting setting unit and reads out image data only from some of the pixels at said image-capturing elements while said second continuous shooting mode has been set; and

20 a sensitivity setting unit that sets a higher image-capturing sensitivity in said second continuous shooting mode than an image-capturing sensitivity set in said first continuous shooting mode.

25 18. An electronic still camera, comprising:

a charge storage type image-capturing element that stores electrical charges in correspondence to subject brightness distribution;

5 a continuous shooting setting unit that sets either a first continuous shooting mode or a second continuous shooting mode in which photographs are taken over shorter intervals than in said first continuous shooting mode;

10 a recording signal output circuit that repeatedly stores electrical charges at said image-capturing element and reads out image data from said image-capturing element when either continuous shooting mode has been set by said continuous shooting setting unit and reads out image data only from some of the pixels at said image-capturing elements while said second continuous shooting mode has 15 been set; and

an exposure value setting unit that sets shutter speed and aperture corresponding to subject brightness in conformance to a predetermined program chart, wherein:

20 said exposure value setting unit is provided with a first continuous shooting mode program chart and a second continuous shooting mode program chart, with said second continuous shooting mode program chart shifted toward a higher shutter speed side relative to said first continuous shooting mode program chart.

19. a charge storage type image-capturing element that stores electrical charges in correspondence to subject brightness distribution;

5 a continuous shooting setting unit that sets either a first continuous shooting mode or a second continuous shooting mode in which photographs are taken over shorter intervals than in said first continuous shooting mode;

10 a recording signal output circuit that repeatedly stores electrical charges at said image-capturing element and reads out image data from said image-capturing element when either continuous shooting mode has been set by said continuous shooting setting unit and reads out image data only from some of the pixels at said image-capturing elements while said second continuous shooting mode has 15 been set; and

a sensitivity setting unit that sets a higher image-capturing sensitivity in said second continuous shooting mode than an image-capturing sensitivity set in said first continuous shooting mode; and

20 an exposure value setting unit that sets shutter speed and aperture corresponding to subject brightness in conformance to a predetermined program chart, wherein:

25 said exposure value setting unit is provided with a first continuous shooting mode program chart and a second continuous shooting mode program chart, with said second

continuous shooting mode program chart shifted toward a higher shutter speed side relative to said first continuous shooting mode program chart.

5 20. An electronic camera, comprising:

a charge storage type image-capturing element that stores electrical charges in correspondence to subject brightness distribution;

10 a single shot/continuous shooting setting unit that sets either a single shot mode or a continuous shooting mode; and

15 a recording signal output circuit that repeatedly stores electrical charges at said image-capturing element and reads out image data from said image-capturing element when said continuous shooting mode has been set by said single shot/continuous shooting setting unit and compresses and outputs image data corresponding to a frame read out immediately before while electrical charges are being stored for the next frame.